



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

MUMBAI ACS NEWSLETTER

MUMBAI, INDIA—FALL 2011

WHEN YOU COME
TO SEE US:

American Citizens visiting the consulate should enter through the Main Gate NOT through the Consular Gate.

USEFUL LINKS

Department of State:

Updated travel information for American Citizens: <http://travel.state.gov>

Tips for traveling abroad: http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/tips_1232.html

Information for travelers to India: http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1139.html

Resources in Mumbai:

Foreigners Regional Registration Office: <http://mumbai.police.org/frro/main.htm>

U.S. Consulate ACS Mumbai: <http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>

U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL RELOCATES TO NEW, LARGER FACILITY IN NORTH MUMBAI

The U.S. Consulate General Mumbai has shifted from Lincoln House in Breach Candy and the American Center in Churchgate to its new facility in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). The new consulate maximizes staff efficiency and improves the American Citizen Services Section's ability to assist U.S. citizens. Visitors will find that the modern facility provides a more pleasant customer service experience.

U.S. Consul General Peter Haas comments "We are always looking for ways to improve our services to American citizens

living and traveling within our consular district and the new space reflects our continued commitment to service."



Lincoln House closed its doors to the public on November 15 and the consulate reopened on November 21 at the new BKC location. The compound in the

BKC houses all United States Government offices in Mumbai, including the Department of State, the Foreign Commercial Service, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the Foreign Agricultural Service. The facility features state of the art green technology, including high-efficiency lighting, a gray-water recycling system, and a self contained waste water treatment facility.

The most current information about the move of the U.S. Consulate is

available online at the U.S. Consulate General website (<http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>).

HOW TO VOTE IN 2012 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

If you want to vote, you have to send in a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) to your local election officials every year – even if you've previously voted overseas – and every time you change your name, physical address, or email address.

Use the FPCA to request an

absentee ballot, and to register to vote if you're not currently registered. The easiest way to fill out this form is to use the online tool available at WWW.FVAP.GOV that walks you through the process based on your state's specific voting rules.

Fill it out every January first and make this your new New Year's Resolution!

The fastest way to get your absentee ballot is to request an electronic ballot. Depending on the specific rules of your home state, delivery may be made by fax, email, or online download.

(continued on page 2)

FROM THE CONSUL GENERAL PETER HAAS



Greetings,

It's a pleasure for me to write this column to you, my compatriots visiting or residing in India. Although we haven't met, I believe we enjoy a kinship borne from our common interest and affection for this country. Many of you have lived here for many years. I have wanted to live in India for many years, having repeatedly sought postings here throughout 20 years of diplomatic service. On August 1, the hope became reality as my family and I joined the American community in Mumbai.

The Mumbai Consular District stretches from Ahmedabad to Panaji and serves what we estimate to be more than 50,000 American citizens. Although the Indian-American strategic partnership often dominates the media headlines, I want to assure you that the U.S. State Department is committed to the welfare and protection of U.S. citizens overseas.

We are pleased to announce the opening of the new Consulate at the Bandra Kurla Complex. The new building will enable us to provide better service to our American citizens. The modern facilities, greater number of windows, and spacious interior will provide an easier, quicker, and more comfortable experience the next time you visit us.

This newsletter for the U.S. citizen community in India is one of the many services provided by the **staff of our American Citizens Services office at the Consulate**. I hope that you'll find it helpful and informative. The ACS team is continually looking for ways to expand and improve services to U.S. citizens as illustrated through recent trips to offer routine citizen services to residents of Ahmedabad, Surat and Pune. The entire U.S. Mission from our Embassy in New Delhi to our consulates in Chennai, Hyderabad, Chennai and here in Mumbai are committed to further strengthening our relationship with India.

My job will take me to locations throughout our consular district. I hope to have the opportunity to meet many of you along the way. I look forward to meeting many of you soon.

Warmest regards,

Peter Haas

VOTER INFORMATION: CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Most states now allow you to send the FPCA electronically to your local election officials, but others still require you to print and mail in a hard copy. The online tool at WWW.FVAP.GOV will tell you which method(s) your state permits. States send out absentee ballots at least 30 days before the primary elections, and 45 days before the November general election.

Returning your completed ballot as quickly as possible will ensure it reaches your local election officials before **your state's ballot receipt deadline**.

After you send in your completed ballot, you can confirm receipt by your local elections officials online by visiting the website of your **state's Secretary of State**.

If it's 30 days before Election Day, and you haven't received your ballot, fill out and mail in an emergency write-in ballot -- the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) which is available at WWW.FVAP.GOV. You can also drop off your FWAB in person at the Consulate, and **we'll mail it to the U.S. for you.**

ABOUT ACS
MUMBAI

This newsletter is published by the American Citizen Services Unit at the U.S. Consulate General, Mumbai.

Email:

mumbaiacs@state.gov

Website:

<http://mumbai.usconsulate.gov>

Depart of State's Travel Website:

<http://www.travel.state.gov>

Hours: ACS services are available by appointment only, Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We are closed on the last Wednesday of every month and on American and Indian holidays.

Phone Inquiries: (022) 2672 - 4000 - Monday to Friday between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. (ask for American Citizens Services). If calling from the United States call 011-91-22-2672-4000.

After Hours Emergencies: (022) 2672-4000- We are always available to assist with a life-threatening emergency involving a U.S. citizen. Ask for the "duty officer" outside of regular office hours.



Sign up today to receive email and SMS updates on travel and security issues in India. Enroll here: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>.

You need your U.S. passport to enroll.